

THE OHIO FLORA PROJECT

At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Council of the Ohio Academy of Science in December, 1950, it was agreed that the preparation of an "Ohio Flora" would be a significant contribution to Ohio science and a worthy project for the Academy to sponsor. A committee was appointed and began functioning in March, 1951. The general plan is that the "Ohio Flora Committee" of the Academy will direct this project and solicit aid from Ohio field botanists and taxonomic specialists in and outside Ohio.

As stated in an earlier note¹ these plans were announced at the Academy meetings at Miami in April, 1951. The response of Ohio botanists was splendid. Questionnaires distributed at that time led to the location of many thousands of herbarium specimens available for study. Each year, as the project becomes better known, much has been added to the known herbarium resources. Even as late as April, 1954, (Athens meeting of the Academy) two significant plant collections were made known and available to the committee. It is the purpose of this note to inform Ohio scientists of progress being made and also to locate additional botanical and human resources. Botanists, amateur or professional, who have a collection or know of a collection which is not already participating in this project are asked to contact a member of the committee. Botanists who are in a position to do plant collecting in Ohio may also contribute to the study. The committee would be happy to accept specimens or records of specimens collected.

As is now planned, the "Flora of Ohio" will contain all vascular plants, native and naturalized, known to occur in Ohio. It will contain keys, diagnostic and habitat notes and distribution maps (by counties) for all species. In order to have the records of maximum value, help is needed from every possible source.

In order to assemble information and to facilitate further study of actual specimens we are asking for a herbarium slip (a printed form provided by the committee) for each specimen. Many thousands of such slips have already come in; more come in each month.

The size of this project seems to warrant an installment plan approach. A special effort was made to collect herbarium slips for all woody plants. On the basis of these records Dr. Braun prepared a preliminary list of the woody plants of Ohio. This 45-page mimeographed publication lists over 400 species. The county distribution for each species is reported as shown by the herbarium slips. More than 100 copies of this list were distributed early in 1953. As a result, a great amount of collecting has been done in an effort to fill the gaps in distribution records. A copy of this publication may be obtained from the secretary. Ultimately, a bulletin on the "Woody Plants of Ohio" will be published.

Present work going on includes a manuscript being prepared on the *Crataegus* of Ohio by Dr. E. J. Palmer, (specialist on this difficult genus). Dr. C. R. Ball, a specialist on willows, is almost as far along with work on the genus *Salix*. Dr. Wm. G. Gambill, Jr., Ohio University, is now working on a preliminary list of the Ohio legumes. Even as this is written Dr. Clara Weishaupt, The Ohio State University, is preparing a preliminary list of the grasses of Ohio, and at New Concord, Professor William Adams is preparing a similar list of Ohio Pteridophytes. These lists will be available from the secretary when completed and will be sent to all who are on our mailing list.

The general plan is that preliminary lists of special groups will be mimeographed and distributed free to all interested parties. Such lists will reveal the need of more collecting. After a year or two of such collecting and reporting, a printed segment of the "Ohio Flora" should be available. We hope to publish shorter installments of the "Ohio Flora" in this journal and others as bulletins of the Ohio Biological Survey. Ultimately, the many segments should be revised and assembled as a single volume. This is years, and thousands of man-hours, away.

COMMITTEE ON A "FLORA OF OHIO."

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¹E. L. Braun, et al., (1952). *Flora of Ohio*. Ohio Jour. Sci. 52: 34.